

# Trash Talk!

hi kids!



A quarterly newsletter of  
Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment  
Bureau of Waste Management  
Spring 2002

Show us you care—draw your own conclusions about the environment. Put your artistic efforts to good use and help promote “Kansas: Don’t Spoil It” at the same time. Enter the Year 2003 Calendar Contest.

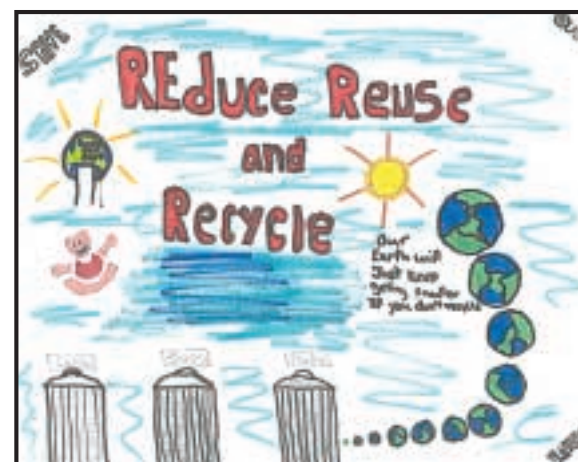
The calendar will feature art by K-12 students from across the state. The grand-prize winner’s art will be featured on the cover. Twelve other winners will be selected, with one to be featured each month. Winners will also receive prizes!

To enter, create a drawing or painting about how we can keep Kansas clean by recycling, composting, disposing of household hazardous waste properly, buying recycled-content products, cleaning up litter, or any other activity that will help

keep our state clean and beautiful. You can use markers, paints, crayons, or colored pencils. Submit artwork on 8 1/2 by 11 inch, unlined white paper. Each entry must include your name, grade, school name, and school address on the back. (Do not put your name on the front of your art, please!)

Entries must be postmarked no later than May 3, 2002.  
Mail entries to:

“Kansas: Don’t Spoil It” Calendar Contest  
KDHE-BWM  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320  
Topeka, KS 66612-1366



## Recycle it right!

Recycling is a little bit like homework—it’s better to do it right than to do it fast! When you recycle, you provide a raw material for manufacturers. They take recyclables at their factories to make new products. They need the best recyclables they can get. So, when you recycle, be sure to do it right.

**Only recycle the materials requested.** If you aren’t sure what you can recycle, find out. You can learn

more about recycling in your community at the Kansas Business and Industry Recycling Program web site, [www.kansasbirp.com](http://www.kansasbirp.com). When you put non-recyclables into recycling bins, someone has to pull them out and throw them away. Dumping non-recyclables into recycling bins makes recycling more difficult and more expensive.

**Look for the number on plastic containers.** Most communities accept only a few types of plastic, most

commonly #1 PET and #2 HDPE.

**Prepare your recyclables properly.** Rinse bottles, cans, jugs, and jars. Remove and discard caps and lids. Flatten bulky plastic items, such as plastic milk jugs. Make sure that paper is clean and dry.





# In My humble opinion...

Instructions: Read the statements below. If the statement is a fact (something that can be proven to be true), circle the word under "F." If the statement is an opinion (something that someone feels, believes, or thinks), circle the word under "O." When you're done, read from top to bottom for a secret message.

- Each year, more than 50 percent of aluminum cans are recycled.
- Grass clippings should always be composted.
- In 1999, 47.3 million tons of paper and paper products were recovered for recycling.
- Glass products have been made and recycled in the United States since colonial times.
- Reducing your waste is really easy.
- I think you should garden without chemicals.
- Fewer than 25 percent of plastic bottles and jugs are recycled each year.
- It's better to buy products in aluminum or glass containers.
- In 1998, 20 million personal computers became obsolete.

F O  
Recycle Reduce  
When What  
You They  
Buy Reject  
Nor And  
Choose Buy  
What Who  
He You  
Recycle Reuse

## MISSING MATH



Glass containers have been in use for around 7,000 years. Using sand and other ingredients, people began making glass containers in about \_\_\_\_ B.C. Modern glass manufacturers mix sand, soda ash, limestone, and cullet (recycled glass) to make new glass. The mixture is melted in furnaces that heat the materials to 2700 degrees Fahrenheit—that's \_\_\_\_ times hotter than it is on a 100-degree summer day. Today, the average bottle or jar weighs about a half pound, meaning there are \_\_\_\_ bottles in a ton. About 35 percent of glass bottles and jars are being recycled. Unfortunately, of every 100 bottles and jars, \_\_\_\_ go in the trash.



# THE STANDARD SENTINEL

APRIL 5, 2105 SECTION C, PAGE 1

OVER SPRING BREAK, I went on a trip back in time. I went back to visit the United States in 2002.

The people had many strange ways. As I walked down the sidewalk, I couldn't help but notice grass-cutting machines that made a great amount of noise—very different from today's solar-powered mulchers. The loud machines had strange attachments on their sides. It seemed the grass cuttings were blown into the attachment and then, occasionally, were emptied into different containers. Once the lawn was totally cut, these containers were dragged to the street. Later in the day, very large and noisy trucks came to empty the containers.

These people appeared to be very hard-working. Why else would they spend their hard labor and valuable resources on such a useless activity? Perhaps they didn't know that leaving the cut grass on the lawn provides food and water to the grass roots and cuts down on the growth of weeds. Plus, much energy and people-power were wasted as trucks traveled up and down the streets to collect the cuttings.

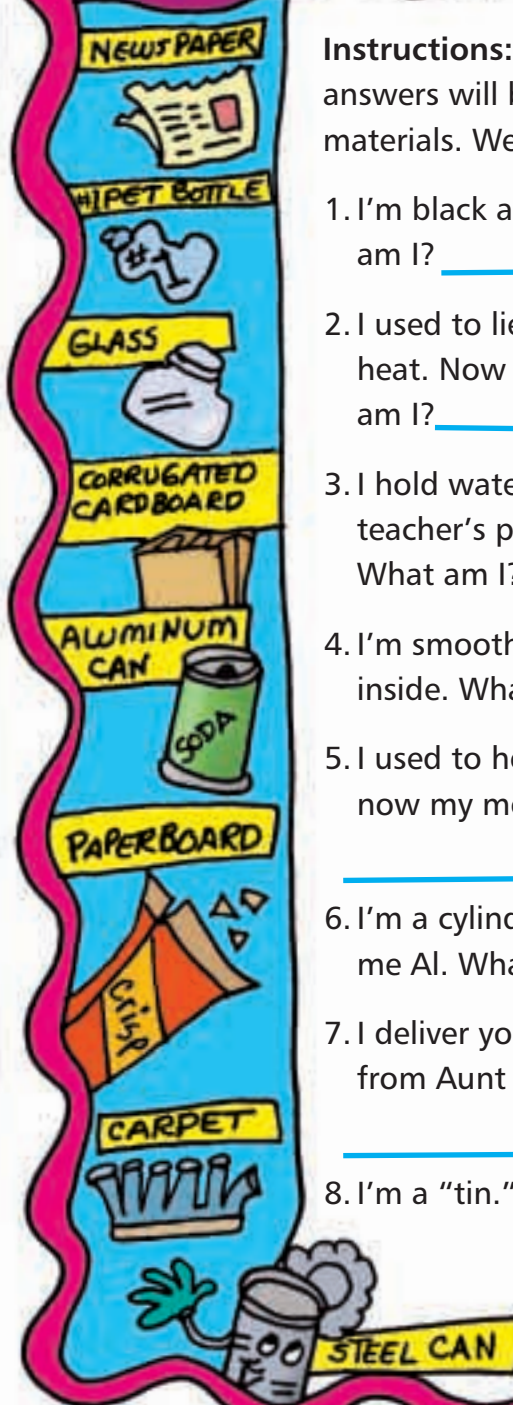
We must count ourselves fortunate to live in such an enlightened time!

- What is the strange attachment the reporter is writing about?
- Write four details from the article that led you to your conclusion.
- Write a headline for the article, and place it at the top of the article.
- Draw a picture of the activity in the space to the right of the article. Caption the picture.

# RECYCLABLE RIDDLES

Instructions: Solve the riddles below. The answers will be recyclable or recycled-content materials. We've done the first one for you.

- I'm black and white and read all over. What am I? Newspaper
- I used to lie on the beach, but I melted in the heat. Now the beach is off-limits to me. What am I? \_\_\_\_\_
- I hold water, sports drinks, and juice. I'm the teacher's pet, the coach's pet, even your pet. What am I? \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm smooth on the outside but wavy on the inside. What am I? \_\_\_\_\_
- I used to hold your favorite soft drink, but now my motto is "tread on me." What am I? \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm a cylindrical drink holder, but you can call me Al. What am I? \_\_\_\_\_
- I deliver your breakfast cereal and the shirt from Aunt Ida on your birthday. What am I? \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm a "tin." What am I? \_\_\_\_\_



## BEST GUESSED?

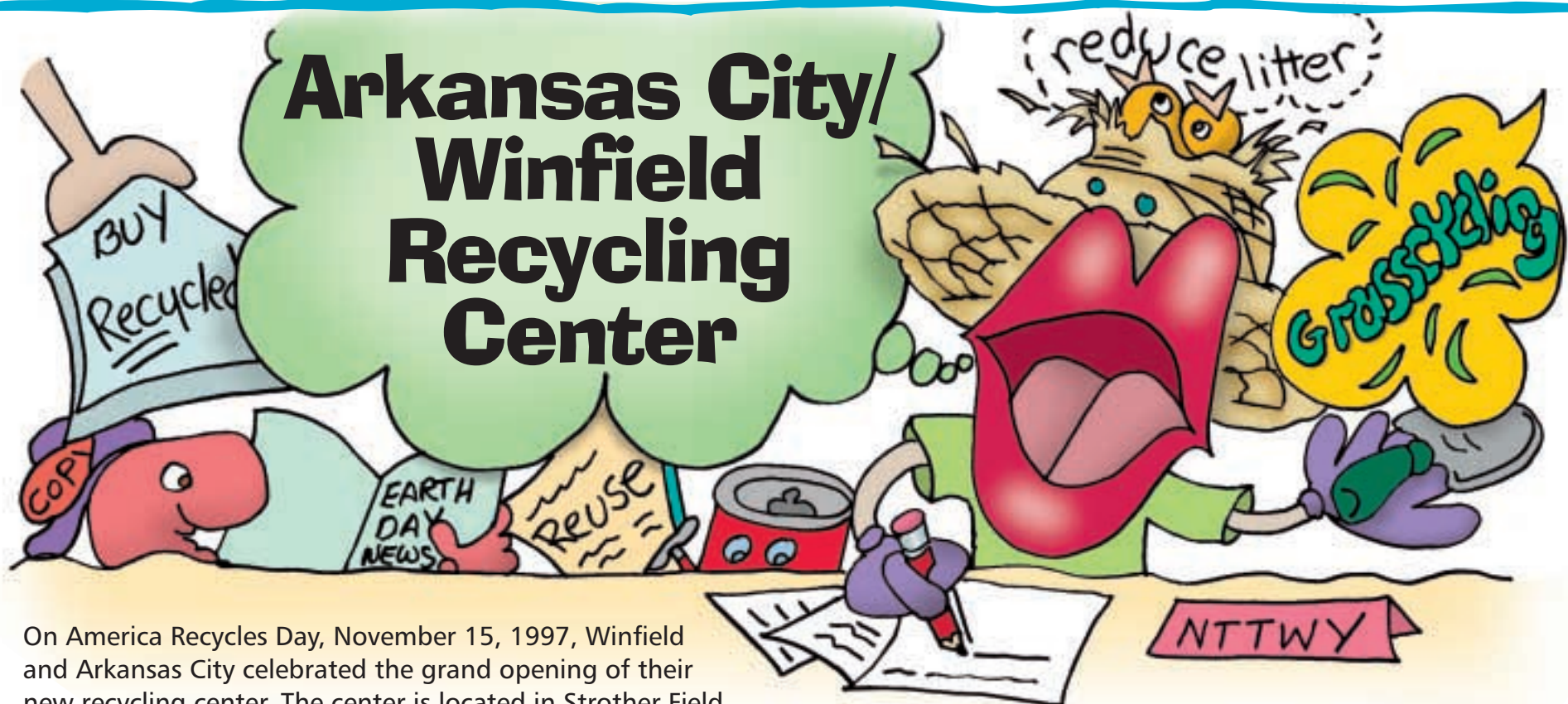
- Review the list of recyclables.
- Guess the measurement in inches and record your guess under the "Guesstimate" column.
- Take this newsletter home, measure the recyclables, and record the results under the "Actual Measurement" column.
- Record the difference between your guess and the actual measurement in the "Difference" column.
- Determine your difference ranking!



Recyclable	Guesstimate	Actual Measurement	Difference
Height of a large mayonnaise jar			
Circumference of a 1-gallon plastic milk jug			
Diameter of a soft drink can			
Width of a newspaper			
Length of a paper grocery sack			
TOTAL			
Total difference rankings:			
0 to 5 inches—Measurer extraordinaire.			
5 to 10 inches—Spend more quality time with your ruler.			
10+ inches—Enroll in a "Ruler Refresher" course over the summer.			



# Arkansas City/ Winfield Recycling Center



On America Recycles Day, November 15, 1997, Winfield and Arkansas City celebrated the grand opening of their new recycling center. The center is located in Strother Field, which is about halfway between the two communities.

Winfield began curbside recycling on a limited basis in 1989 and expanded it in 1991 to the whole community. Arkansas City started its recycling program in June of 1995 with drop-off recycling sites that are open on Saturday mornings. In late 1995, the two communities agreed to process their recyclables together at a new recycling center, which they would build, own, and operate together.

The center accepts metal food and beverage cans; glass bottles and jars; #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs; newspapers with inserts; bags of shredded paper; and corrugated cardboard.

Winfield received two grants from the State of Kansas to purchase equipment and pay for public education. The recycling center was featured on a special tour of successful recycling and composting facilities in November 1997. Winfield received a third grant in 2001 for additional equipment for the City's composting operation.

In 2001, 795 tons of recyclable material were

processed at the center. Improved operating practices and equipment have enabled the recycling center to process the increase of material.

The recycling center is constantly used to educate the public about collection and processing of recyclable materials. Many educators have used the center for classes and field trips.



We've been celebrating Earth Day for a long time! On April 22, Earth Day will turn 32. While we hope that you plan to celebrate Earth Day in April, we also hope that it isn't the only day of the year that you think about taking care of the Earth. That would be like saying hello to your sister only on her birthday each year!

Here's what you can do to make every day Earth Day:

- Use less stuff.
- Reuse and repair.
- Recycle all of the materials that you can.
- Buy recycled-content products.
- Mulch your grass clippings.
- Compost.



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